(c) to (h) A study on food contaminants in various food was conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The report prepared by the Multi-centric Study (along with recommendations) was not found to be accurate in its analysis and interpretation, as also conclusions drawn and the method of reporting. In view of this, the report had been withdrawn in 1994.

National Population Policy

128. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Population Policy in place so as to control and curb the population explosion in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the policy is operative;

(c) whether there is any monitoring agency in place to oversee the operation of the policy; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far in keeping burgeoning increase in population in check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted the National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which envisages a set of National socio- demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 including attainment of total fertility rate of 2.1. The long term goal is to achieve a stable population in the country by 2045.

(c) The National Commission on Population (NCP) has been constituted on 11th May 2000 to review and monitor the implementation of the National Population Policy.

(d) Achieving population stabilization is a slow process. The implementation of the various policies outlined in the National Population Policy is likely to accelerate the declining trend in demographic growth brought out by Census 2001.

As a result of the various steps taken by Government the two important demographic indicator *viz*. Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate

have been showing declining trend as per SRS Bulletin of Registrar General of India as indicated below:—

Year	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
2000	25.8	68
2001	25.4	66
2002	25.0	64

US refusal for Indian AIDS Drugs

129. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the US Food and Drug Administration refused to give its approval for use of WHO-approved AIDS drug combinations manufactured by Indian drug manufacturers in US-funded programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken through diplomatic and political channels, to convince USA to use these drugs in US sponsored or funded programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no information available with the Government that AIDS drug combinations of Indian manufacturers, approved by WHO, under its pre-qualification scheme, are being refused by US, FDA for their acceptance under US funded Programmes for supply for AIDS drugs. It is, however, understood that for supply of AIDS drugs to developing countries, against the funds provided under US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) tentative approval of US, FDA about safety and efficacy standards of these drugs would be required.

Council to regulate physiotherapy

†130. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 776 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2003 and state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.